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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

PARKIN, JEFFREY S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1648

DATE MAILED: 07/26/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/767,138

Applicant(s)

ALIZON ET AL.

Examiner

Jeffrey S. Parkin, Ph.D.

Art Unit

1648

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 01 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 January 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claims 23=64 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other: _____

Restriction Requirement

35 U.S.C. § 121

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

- a. Group I, claim(s) 23-28, drawn to a purified **HIV-1 virus** comprising variations in **Gag**, classified in class 424, subclasses 188.1 and 208.1.
- b. Group II, claim(s) 29-34, drawn to a purified **HIV-1 virus** comprising variations in **Pol**, classified in class 424, subclasses 188.1 and 208.1.
- c. Group III, claim(s) 35-40, drawn to a purified **HIV-1 virus** comprising variations in **Env**, classified in class 424, subclasses 188.1 and 208.1.
- d. Group IV, claim(s) 41-52, drawn to various purified HIV-1 **polypeptide fragments**, classified in class 530, subclasses 300 and 350.¹
- e. Group V, claim(s) 53-64, drawn to **nucleic acids** encoding various HIV-1 polypeptide fragments, classified in class 514, subclass 44.²

2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

¹ Applicants are also required to elect a single peptide, and identify the coding region (i.e., *gag*, *pol*, *env*, *tat*, *rev*, *vif*, *vpr*, *vpu*) for said peptide for prosecution on the merits. Each peptide will have a unique amino acid sequence and attendant biochemical/immunological properties. Accordingly, separate searches will be required for each peptide. **Applicants are further advised that this is a restriction requirement, not a species election.** Due to the large number of peptides encompassed by this group, each one has not been set forth individually in the restriction requirement.

² Applicants are also required to elect a single nucleic acid, and identify the corresponding coding or non-coding regions (i.e., *LTR*, *gag*, *pol*, *env*, *tat*, *rev*, *vif*, *vpr*, *vpu*), for prosecution on the merits. Each nucleotide sequence will have a unique chemical structure and attendant physical/chemical properties. Accordingly, separate searches will be required for each peptide. **Applicants are further advised that this is a restriction requirement, not a species election.** Due to the large number of nucleic acid molecules encompassed by this group, each one has not been set forth individually in the restriction requirement.

3. Inventions I-V are all unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (M.P.E.P. § 806.04 and § 808.01). In the instant case, each of the identified groups is directed toward a different product (e.g., HIV-1 virus with modified Gag, Pol, or Env, HIV-1 polypeptides, and nucleic acids encoding said polypeptides) with disparate structures, functions, chemical/physical/immunological/virological properties, and uses. Moreover, each group will clearly require separate searches. Therefore, each group is clearly drawn toward a different inventive concept.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, recognized divergent subject matter, and require separate searches, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

4. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 C.F.R. § 1.143).

5. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(I).

Correspondence

6. The Art Unit location of your application in the Patent and Trademark Office has changed. To facilitate the correlation of related papers and documents for this application, all future correspondence should be directed to **art unit 1648**.

7. Correspondence related to this application may be submitted to Group 1600 by facsimile transmission. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). Official communications should be directed toward one of the following Group 1600 fax numbers: (703) 308-4242 or (703) 305-3014. Informal communications may be submitted directly to the Examiner through the following fax number: (703) 308-4426. Applicants are encouraged to notify the Examiner prior to the submission of such documents to facilitate their expeditious processing and entry.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Jeffrey S. Parkin, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (703) 308-2227. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM. A message may be left on the examiner's voice mail service. If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisors, James Housel or Laurie Scheiner, can be reached at (703) 308-4027 or (703) 308-1122, respectively. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group 1600 receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey S. Parkin, Ph.D.
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1648

22 July, 2002